Drug misuse by Indian Sportsmen

1622. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign athletic experts are using top Indian athletes to test their medicines and drugs on them;

(b) if so, what steps the Ministry has taken to stop the drug misuse by Indian sportsmen and their coaches; and

(c) whether bio-chemical tests are being done regularly on the athletes preparing to go to Athens Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of Government.

(b) During the National Coaching Camps, athletes are educated about the prohibited substances and methods as notified by the World Anti-DopingAgency(WADA)andits harmful effects. An information guide in the form of a Directory on 'Drugs in Sports' and Handbook on 'Drugs Abuse in Sports' developed by the Lab Scientists are also circulated among sportspersons, coaches, doctors and athlete support personnel as part of the educational programme. List of banned drugs and placards for educating the players are also put in the rooms of the campers. Random checking of the rooms of the campers is also done to ensure that no banned drugs are being used. The Sports Medicine Doctor at Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala and other Regional Centres of Sports Authority of India conduct lectures to educate the players not to use any banned drugs. Apart from the above, random tests are also done during coaching camps, selection trials, domestic competitions and prior to participation in international competitions.

(c) Random dope testing, a bio-chemical testing, had been conducted on out of competition basis for the athletes, who were preparing to qualify for Athens Olympics.